

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03
ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00
SAJ-01 DODE-00 H-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 MC-02 IO-13 /075 W
-----211836Z 131029 /60

O P 211815Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4959
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS PRIORITY
CINC EUR VAHINGEN PRIORITY
USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY
CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 01308

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, US, GW, AWACS
SUBJECT: US-FRG TANK HARMONIZATION

REFS: (A) STATE 012316 DTG 190107Z JAN 77
(B) USNATO 0332 DTG 201756Z JAN 77

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BEGIN SUMMARY: IN A DISCUSSION WITH MAJOR GENERAL
BRANDT, CHIEF OF POLITICAL/MILITARY AFFAIRS IN THE
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF DEFENSE ON JAN. 21, BRANDT SAID THAT
THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT POSITION WAS THAT THE ADDITION TO
THE ADDENDUM TO THE MOU MADE SENSE AND THAT IT LOOKED
FORWARD WITH CONFIDENCE TO THE U.S. ADOPTING THE GERMAN
120MM SMOOTH BORE GUN FOR THE XM-1 SOMETIME IN THE

FUTURE. SHOULD THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S CONFIDENCE THAT THE U.S. WOULD EVENTUALLY ADOPT THE 120MM SMOOTH BORE GUN PROVE TO BE UNFOUNDED, THE RESULT WOULD BE THAT THE CAUSE OF NATO STANDARDIZATION WOULD LIE DORMANT FOR THE NEXT TEN YEARS. END SUMMARY.

1. BRANDT EMPHASIZED HOW EMOTIONAL AN ISSUE THE TANK IS IN THE EYES OF THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT, PARLIAMENT, PRESS AND PUBLIC. VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE BUNDESTAG DID NOT SHARE THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS CONCERNING THE TANK ISSUE. KARL DAMM, FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD BE TELLING ONE AND ALL THAT HE WOULD NEVER VOTE MONEY FOR A NATO AWACS UNLESS OR UNTIL THE U.S. AGREED TO PURCHASE THE LEOPARD 2 FOR USE ON THE CENTRAL FRONT (SEE IN THIS CONNECTION REF B).

2. EMBOFF NOTED THAT MINISTER LEBER HAD AGREED WITH SECRETARY OF THE ARMY HOFFMANN THAT EVALUATIONS OF THE XM-1 AND THE LEOPARD 2 WOULD NOW BE LIMITED TO CERTAIN AGREED SUB-SYSTEMS. GENERAL BRANDT ASSENTED AND NOTED THAT THIS AGREEMENT WAS LOGICAL IN VIEW OF THE ADDENDUM.

3. EMBOFF ASKED WHETHER THE FRG'S CONFIDENCE THAT THE U.S. WOULD ADOPT THE GERMAN 120MM SMOOTH BORE MEANT THAT THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT EXPECTED ALL XM-L'S TO BE EQUIPPED WITH THAT WEAPON. GENERAL BRANDT REPLIED IN THE NEGATIVE. HE SAID THAT THE FRG COULD UNDERSTAND THE EARLIEST VERSION OF THE XM-1 BEING EQUIPPED WITH THE 105MM GUN BUT THAT THE U.S. WOULD HAVE TO MAKE PUBLIC ITS CONFIDENTIAL

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INTENTION THAT THE 120MM SMOOTH BORE WOULD REPLACE THE 105MM GUN AT A PARTICULAR POINT IN THE PRODUCTION RUN. HE THEN WENT ON TO REPEAT THE WELL-KNOWN GERMAN POSITIONS CONCERNING THE UNAVAILABILITY OF THE BRITISH 120MM RIFLED BORE GUN AND THE ALLEGED LACK OF ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL IN THE U.S. 105MM GUN WITH ITS IMPROVED

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 SAJ-01
DODE-00 H-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
MC-02 IO-13 /075 W

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O P 211815Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4960

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 01308

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (LINE 5 PARA 5 OMITTED FROM
ORIGINAL TRANSMISSION)

AMMUNITION.

4. EMBASSY COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT PROFESSIONALS IN
THE FMOD HAVE RELUCTANTLY ACCEPTED THE FACT THAT THE
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US COULD NOT COME OUT IN FAVOR OF THE 120MM SMOOTH BORE
GUN BY JANUARY 15. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT THESE
PROFESSIONALS LONG AGO ABANDONED ANY HOPE THAT THE US
MIGHT BUY THE LEOPARD 2. THE FACT THAT WE HAVE DELAYED
A DECISION DOES NOT, IN THEIR VIEW, TAKE AWAY OUR
OBLIGATION TO ADOPT THE 120MM SMOOTH BORE FOR THOSE
TANKS WE INTEND TO DEPLOY TO NATO'S CENTRAL FRONT,
ESPECIALLY SINCE THE GERMAN TANKS WILL HAVE THAT GUN
AS PER OUR AGREEMENT.

5. EVEN THIS SOMEWHAT GRUDGING PARTIAL ACCEPTANCE OF US VIEWS BY FMOD PROFESSIONALS IS UNLIKELY TO BE SHARED BY MANY MEMBERS OF THE BUNDESTAG OR BY THE PRESS. WE MUST EXPECT TO HEAR A GREAT DEAL MORE IN THE MONTHS TO COME ABOUT THE TANK ISSUE, PARTICULARLY NOW THAT MORE AND MORE GERMANS ARE LINKING THE TANK ISSUE WITH AWACS.

6. WHILE GENERAL BRANDT MAY HAVE GONE TOO FAR IN CLAIMING THAT A US DECISION AGAINST THE GERMAN 120MM SMOOTH BORE WOULD PUT NATO STANDARDIZATION ON THE SHELF FOR THE NEXT TEN YEARS, IT WOULD CERTAINLY UNDERCUT THE POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR THAT PROGRAM IN GERMANY AND PERHAPS IN OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AS WELL. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD ALSO WEAKEN THE POSITION OF THE MILITARY PROFESSIONALS (LIKE BRANDT) WHO WANT STANDARDIZATION AGAINST THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN PURSUING EUROPEAN OR NATIONAL COUNTERWEIGHTS TO TRADITIONAL AMERICAN PREDOMINANCE IN ARMS DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION FOR NATO.
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Message Attributes

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